Sample Questions to Address to the Panel and Joint Fact-Finding Process

CALFED will be developing a list of questions to put before the panels regarding the ERPP. Listed below are a few *examples* of questions that may be asked.

1. An underlying hypothesis of the ERPP is that restoration of regularly reoccurring (2-5 year) flow events will serve to support basic ecological functions in the tributaries to the Delta and in the Delta itself. Is this a valid hypothesis?

2. Even though the ecosystems of the Central Valley and the Bay Delta are highly modified it is an hypothesis of the ERPP that restoration of ecological functions and processes will result in restoration of aquatic and wetland habitats. Is this a valid hypothesis? Will the irreversible changes to the ecosystem/watershed impede attainment of the visions/ implementation objectives?

3. It is an hypothesis of the ERPP that species of special concern will respond at population levels to increases in habitat that are derived from the restoration of ecological processes and functions. Is this a valid hypothesis?

4. It is an hypothesis of the ERPP that partial reduction of stressors in the ecosystem will result in population levels or increases for species dependent on the Bay-Delta. Is this a valid hypothesis?

5. It is an hypothesis of the ERPP that restoration of ecological processes in the uppermost areas of watersheds of the Bay-Delta will result in measurable benefits in the tributaries to the Delta and the Delta itself. Is this a valid hypothesis?

6. Is the general approach and framework of the ERPP appropriate and adequate? The approach used by the ERPP includes implementation objectives, targets, programmatic actions and visions. Indicators have been identified to track the effectiveness of the implementation objectives.

7. Are the indicators used in the ERPP appropriate? Are there scientific bases for selecting numeric values of indicators? What are the most important indicators of ecosystem health?

8. Are the targets a complete list of the tools that might be needed to achieve the implementation objectives?

9. Will the ERPP create bottlenecks (e.g. massive restoration of rearing habitat with insufficient restoration of spawning habitat)?

10. Are the proposed programmatic actions integrated across the landscape (e.g. are actions mutually reinforcing or at odds with one another)?

11. For the programmatic actions where scientific certainty of the benefits is not known what are the appropriate actions needed to reduce the uncertainty?

12. Does the Implementation Plan of the ERPP identify the highest priority near-term programmatic actions for near-term implementation?